

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/615,775
Amendment filed December 20, 2005
Reply to OA dated September 22, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application, with claims 16-24 withdrawn from consideration. The present amendment cancels claims 5 and 7-9 without prejudice or disclaimer, amends claims 4, 6, 10, 11, and 16-24, and adds new claims 25 and 26. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-4, 6 and 10-26 will be pending, with claims 16-24 withdrawn from consideration.

No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Support for the amendments to the claims is discussed below. Reconsideration of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested.

Regarding Office action paragraph no. 1

Claims 16-24 are currently withdrawn from consideration. Applicant's agent, Daniel Geselowitz, telephoned Examiner Garrett on December 19, 2005, to ask if, upon amendment of method claims 16-24 to incorporate the compositional limitation of allowed claim 1, the Examiner would be willing to rejoin claims 16-24 for examination. The Examiner indicated that she would be willing to do so.

Applicant has therefore amended claims 16-24 to depend from claim 1 instead of claim 4. That is, each of independent claims 16 and 22, as amended, includes a step of "bringing a solution containing the copolymer of claim 1 into contact with the surface of the layer ...", thereby requiring the presence of the copolymer of claim 1. The preamble of claims 16-24 has been amended: "A method of producing a hole transport layer for an organic electroluminescent device", to more

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properly reflect the scope of the claims. Claim 24 has been amended for proper antecedent basis.

Entry of the amendment and consideration of claims 16-24 are therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. (Office action paragraphs no. 3-5)

The rejection of claim 6 is overcome by the amendment to claim 6. The rejection of claim 7 is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

With regard to claim 6, the Examiner cites the wording: “a carboxyl group consisting of a hydroxyl group”, noting that a carboxyl group cannot “consist of” a hydroxyl group. In the amendment to claim 6, the words “consisting of” are deleted. This amendment is supported by the disclosure on page 22, at bottom, of the specification. Page 22, line 24, indicates that “carboxyl group, hydroxyl group, isocyanate group and cyclic carboxylic anhydride group” are preferable.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Makino (JP 2003-142272).

The rejection of claims 4 and 6 is overcome by the amendments to claims 4 and 6. The rejection is moot for claims 5 and 7, which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 4 has been amended to delete the recitation of the copolymer represented by formula (8), and

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to replace this with the copolymer comprising a molecular chain represented by formula (1), as in claim 1 of the application. The copolymer in claim 1 can be seen to represent a limited version of the copolymer of formula (8). Claim 6 has been amended for proper antecedent basis from claim 1.

Claims 5 and 7, which recited limitations found in claim 1, have accordingly been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The Examiner has indicated that claim 1 is allowed. Since amended claim 4 incorporates the limitations of the polymer of claim 1, allowance of amended claims 4 and 6 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 12-15 are allowed. Claims 8-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. (Office action paragraph no. 8)

The objection to claims 8-11 is overcome by the amendments to the claims.

Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled, and claims 25 and 26 have been added, reciting the contents of original claims 8 and 9, respectively, in independent form. Applicant submits that the scope of claim 25 is the same as that of original claim 8, and that of claim 26 is the same as that of original claim 9. The objection to claims 10 and 11 is overcome by the amendments to these claims, making these claims dependent from new claim 26, which corresponds to original claim 9.

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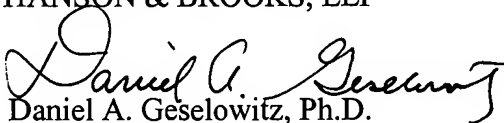
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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